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| Sheet | 1 | of | 2 |
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**Complete if Known**

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Application Number     | 10/707,989    |
| Filing Date            | Jan. 30, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor   | Shinohara     |
| Art Unit               | 3742          |
| Examiner Name          | Tu Ba Hoang   |
| Attorney Docket Number | RHM-US020574  |

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

[illegible]

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |   |                                |  |   |   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>Or Relevant Figures Appear | T |
|                          |                       | Country Code <sup>2</sup> Number <sup>1</sup> Kind Code <sup>3</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |   |
| 001                      |                       | JP H11-26190A   | 01-29-1999                     | Hitachi Ltd.                                       |   |   |
| 002                      |                       | JP H11-067492A  | 03-09-1999                     | Sumitomo Metal                                     |   |   |
| 003                      |                       | JP H10-275696A  | 10-13-1998                     | Daihen Corp.                                       |   |   |
| 004                      |                       | JP H10-255998A  | 09-25-1998                     | Toshiba Corp.                                      |   |   |
| 005                      |                       | JP H08-241797A  | 09-17-1996                     | Hitachi Ltd.                                       |   |   |
| 006                      |                       | JP H08-274083A  | 10-18-1996                     | Sumitomo Metal                                     |   |   |

**Examiner  
Signature**

TU HOANG

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Date Considered |  |
|-----------------|--|

5/12/05

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